

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-7, 10-14 and 17-25 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 14, 16 and 17 are amended, and claims 3, 8, 9 and 16 are canceled. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the originally filed specification and drawings.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

I. THE CLAIMS ARE ALLOWABLE OVER TACK

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-12, 14-24 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Tack (U.S. Patent No. 6, 390,788). The Office Action also rejects claims 13 and 25 under 35 USC §103(a) over Tack. As noted above, claims 3, 8, 9 and 16 canceled. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the connection pipe includes a first cylindrical section having a first diameter and having a top part held at an inlet of the suction muffler. Amended claim 1 also recites that a second cylindrical section of the connection pipe has a second diameter that is larger than the first diameter. Claim 1 recites that an outer surface of the connection spring abuts inner surfaces of the first and second cylindrical sections, and

that the connection spring includes an enlarged part having an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of the second cylindrical section of the connection pipe. Claim 1 further recites that the connection pipe includes a holding part having a cylindrical annular recess for holding the enlarged part of the connection spring, wherein the outer surface of the enlarged part of the connection spring abuts an inner surface of the cylindrical annular recess.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite features similar to those now recited in claim 1.

The Tack reference discloses a connection cap which can be used to attach a suction pipe to a suction muffler of a compressor. As shown in Fig. 2, the cap 11 includes a first cylindrical section which is inserted into a cylindrical inlet 9a of the suction muffler 9. The cap 11 further includes a second section which extends outside and below the suction muffler 9. The lower section of the cap flares outward at an angle.

The Tack reference fails to disclose or suggest a connection pipe which surrounds a connection spring, wherein the connection pipe includes a first cylindrical section having a first diameter and a second cylindrical section having a second diameter that is larger than the first diameter. In addition, because of the flared lower portion of the cap 11 in Tack, the Tack reference fails to disclose or suggest a connection spring that includes an enlarged part having an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of the second cylindrical section of the connection pipe. Moreover, Tack fails to disclose or suggest a connection pipe that includes a holding part having a cylindrical annular recess for holding the enlarged part of the connection spring, wherein the outer surface of the enlarged part of the connection spring abuts an inner

surface of the cylindrical annular recess. For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 14 are allowable.

Claims 4-7 and 10-13 depend from claim 1. Claims 17-25 depend from claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable over Tack for the same reasons discussed above in connection with claims 1 and 14, and for the additional features which they recite.

For instance, dependent claims 5-7, and 10 as well as claims 7-15 and 17-19, further recite a connection cap which is located between the connection pipe and the suction muffler. These claims recite that an outer surface of the first cylindrical section of the connection pipe abuts an inner cylindrical surface of the connection cap. Here again, the Tack reference fails to disclose or suggest any such structures. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are also allowable for their additional features.

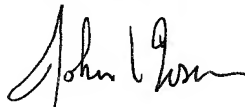
In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections over Tack are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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